

# The Tuner's Beat

Randy Rush, editor [randyrush@earthlink.net](mailto:randyrush@earthlink.net)

November, 2001

## NEXT MEETING:

Monday, November 19th  
Board Meeting at 6:30 PM  
General Meeting at 7:30PM  
Washburn's Piano Store  
10635 NE 8th  
Bellevue

## Technical Program:

**Show and Tell - Bring  
your favorite tools**

## Dates To Remember:

November 19, 2001  
Chapter Meeting  
6:30 board, 7:30 general

December ??(date to be decided)  
Holiday Party at  
Steve and Judith's house

January 31, 2002  
PTG Dues considered delinquent  
if unpaid

March 21—23  
Pacific Northwest Conference  
Pasco, WA

July 26—30  
PTG Annual Convention  
Chicago

Please visit our website:

<http://users.iglide.net/dpetrich>

## November Program:

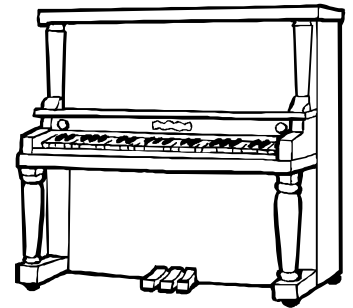
### **It Was The Best Of Tools; It Was The Worst Of Tools Or, "I'll Show You Mine If You Show Me Yours"** Featuring Roger Gable and Joe Alkana

Bring your favorite and not - so -favorite tools to the chapter meeting this month. Bring them all, the weird and the wonderful. No tool is too strange to expose to this crowd. We especially encourage homemade tools that you find useful or interesting.

We will explore the features

of available stock tools from the various supply companies; Joe and Roger will bring catalogues with tools, parts and supplies for our examination. And Curtis will bring his old Kimball mezzo-thermoneal stabilizer for us to take a gander at.

Plan to be there, okay?



## **Annual Holiday Party On Tap For December**

Steve Brady and Judith Cohen have graciously consented to allow us to trash their home again for our annual holiday party. All we need now is a date to hold this festive occasion so they can be sure to be home to chaperone. Bring your ideas and your Palm Pilots to the next meeting so that we can get this on the docket. Oh, and plan to leave the scented massage oil at home this time - that stuff was a bear to get out of the carpet last year.

## **Tuner's Beat Hires New Editor**

Harold Throckmorton III, Publisher

We here at the *Tuners Beat* are proud to announce a new captain at the helm of this august publication—longtime PTG member and sometime meeting attendee Mr. Randy Rush. Mr. Rush brings to the task a wealth of experience in the field of newsletter writing, editing, and filling - full -of - witty and - quasi-humorous blandishments (or gas, if you will). We hope you will enjoy his style of self-indulgence.

Not that there was anything

wrong with the other guys. You know, it was just time for a change. And a change it will be. As Mr. Rush himself told me, "I intend to use this newsletter to the full extent of it's capability to inform, educate, and stimulate the Seattle Chapter, without directly or consciously offending more than half the members at any one time".

We hope you will enjoy the new *Beat*. If you have any complaints, call Roger, don't bug Randy.

## Minutes From October 15, 2001

President Roger Gable opened the Meeting at 7:30 PM. A Quorum was met with 13 RPTs and 6 Associates. Two guests were present.

### Bill Barber gave the Treasurer's Report.

There was \$2968.76 in savings, \$2591.53 in checking and \$5146.38 in the CD.

### Announcements:

Next month's meeting will be on the the topic of Tools; The Good, Bad and the Ugly. Meet-



ing date is November 19th, location to be announced; Roger Gable said he will attempt to find a home for the annual Christmas

Party.

**Old Business:** Discussed staffing a Booth at the 2002 WSM TA Convention. Budgeted \$700 for two days, or \$450 for one day. It was noted that the WSM TA Convention dates (June 24-28) conflict with the PTG Conference in Chicago (June 26-30). A decision as to

whether to attend the WSM TA Convention was tentatively approved pending availability of space and someone to Staff it from the Seattle Chapter.

**Budget:** Discussed details of Proposed 2001-02 Budget. Noted a proposed deficit. Dean Petrich moved to accept Budget, Jeannie Grassi seconded Motion. Motion passed with unananimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Curtis Spiel, RPT

## The Fine Print

The Tuner's Beat is the official newsletter for the Seattle Chapter of the Piano Technician's Guild. It is published 10 to 12 times a year at a subscription rate of \$6 (free to members and exchanging newsletters). All articles may be reprinted if credit is given to the Tuner's Beat, as the Seattle PTG newsletter and to individual authors, when indicated. Please address all inquiries or articles to Randy Rush, 2627 NE 86th Street, Seattle, WA 98115 (randyrush@earthlink.net). The Seattle Chapter PTG usually meets on the third Monday of every month.

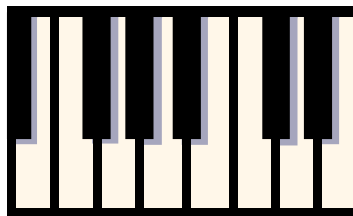
*"All expressions of opinion and all statements of supposed fact are published on the authority of the author as listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the views of this Chapter or the Piano Technicians Guild unless such statements or opinions have been adopted by the Chapter or the Guild."*

## Blood On The Keys:

**Roger Gable, Chapter Prez, Tunes a Piano Right Before Our Very Eyes**  
Randy Rush

The October Chapter meeting at Prosser Piano out on Aurora was an amazing display of the tuner's craft, not to mention outright chutzpah. (Would you stand up in front of a roomful of tuners and tune a piano in an

hour and fifteen minutes? I wouldn't.) Roger demonstrated his technique of



using a strobe tuner to do an "every day" tuning (as opposed to a concert tuning), and it was an excellent show. For myself, it was an opportunity to

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Seattle PTG Officers

President: Roger Gable	(425) 252-5000	rgable@gte.net
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## Mr. Piano Guy Rides Again (maybe....) Or, "How Did I Get Myself Into This?"

Dear Seattle Chapter:

Welcome to the inaugural issue of your Tuner's Beat with Yours Truly as editor. Snide subtitle aside, I really am looking forward to joining the ranks of such distinguished former editors as Don Galt, Jeannie Grassi and Mitch Kiel, and hope that I can uphold the tradition. My goal is to provide you with the fundamental chapter-operation information you've come to expect, in a timely and complete manner. (Sorry this issue is so late - I decided to take on the job last week. I promise I'll do better next time.)

In addition to chapter informa-

tion, there is a wealth of ideas out in the world to draw from. Many of you are familiar with exchanges taking place on the piano-tech newsgroup. Other chapters around the country have excellent newsletters. And, we have skilled and experienced techs right here in our own chapter. These are sources I plan to use, but I'm hoping that you the readers, will be willing to contribute



*"I'd like to dedicate this next piece to all those dead elephants who helped make this keyboard possible."*

articles, ideas, and tips - LOTS, okay?

My hope is to present all this stuff in an entertaining manner. I've almost got Mr. Piano Guy talked into coming out of retirement, and several other cutting edge columnists are close to signing contracts, such as the infamous Billy Bob "Mean Tone" Mullet (who can forget the immortal "Get away from that freakin' toolbox, kid"?), and Halbert Culpepper Werkmeister III, who knows more about plastic elbows than anybody you've ever met. The prospects are getting me hot already.

So, buckle up, and let's all enjoy the ride. I can hardly wait to see what comes up next.

Randy Rush

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(If you would like to send in an article or tip, deadline is the last day of each month. - thanks!)

## Tuning Tip: Three Legs Good, Four Legs Bad

### Randy Rush

Every once in a while, I am reminded, with a slap in the face, of some basic principle of piano tuning that had seeped below my level of consciousness. If I'm lucky, it quickly works its way high enough in my thought process that I think about it every time I sit down to tune.

If you've ever pulled a spinet or console away from the wall to tune it (usually because you need more clearance on the end, or it's ensconced in a cubbyhole that won't allow you to open the lid), only to find that it's no longer in tune when you push it back, you'll know what I'm talking about. Upright pianos, by virtue of their four point support, are very susceptible to twisting

forces caused by uneven floors, and believe me there are a lot of those around here.

My rule of thumb is to always tune it where it is, whenever possible. If you *have* to reposition an upright to tune it, pull it out and check some octaves, just to see what's going to happen. Another quick check is to sit down at the piano and lift one side and then the other with your knee while playing octaves across the break. In fact, just for fun, try this on every small upright you tune for the

next few weeks; you might be surprised.

If you have to move the piano to do your job, and you find that the frame will rack

when you do so, then it's time for a little sit-down with your customer, as this is a no-win situation.

Grands, of course, are not subject to this phenomenon because of their three-point balance. If all you ever tune are grands, eschew-

ing the lowly spinets and consoles, then ignore everything I've just said, and I curse you for your enviable position.

*"Upright pianos, by virtue of their four point support, are very susceptible to twisting forces caused by uneven floors."*

# The Tuner's Beat

Newsletter of the Seattle Chapter of  
The Piano Technicians Guild

The Tuner's Beat  
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We're on the web!  
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Webmaster: Dean Petrich

## Loose Ends...

"If I'd known I was going to live to be a hundred I'd have taken much better care of myself" -  
**Eubie Blake**

"When she started to play, Steinway himself came down and rubbed his name off the piano."  
**Bob Hope**, on comedian Phillis Diller..

"Muzak goes in one ear, and out some other opening." --**Anton Kuerti** (b. 1939) Austrian-born Canadian pianist

"The monuments of a nation mark the progress of its civilization, but its intelligence and education



are qualified by its music." --  
**Amy Beach** (1867-1944)

"I would rather play Chiquita Banana and have my swimming pool than play Bach and starve."  
- **Xavier Cugat**

"I was lucky enough to have music lessons when I was young...I think it's good for a child to have a positive addiction." **Christina Applegate**, actress

"There's nothing remarkable about it. All one has to do is hit the right keys at the right time and the instrument plays itself." **Johann Sebastian Bach**, (1685-1750)

"If thine enemy has wronged thee buy each of his children a drum."

**Chinese Proverb**

## The Roger Show

*(Continued from page 2)*

view a tuning method I'm not familiar with, since I learned to tune by ear, and have been using a Sanderson Accutuner for a while now. I have experimented with the RCT, but never a strobe tuner. Roger also talked about where he draws the line in such a tuning, in terms of tightness of unisons and octaves and other intervals. We had a chance to observe the Strobe in action, and the opportunity to see an experienced tuner in action was worth the price of admission.

As an addendum, Roger invites us to offer critiques impressions, and comments on his demo at the upcoming chapter meeting Monday night.